

CURIOUS.
If you are a bit curious to test a new thing, start the "Co-operative Club" (see 8th page), and see how it will work out.

National

Tribune.

LOYALTY.
Loyalty to a paper is best shown by sending it a club. A mere trifle of trouble will start a "Co-operative Club." See 8th page.

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A Friend with the Conversion

Story of a Spy in the Civil War.

By B. K. BENSON.

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CHAPTER IV.

SUSPICIONS.

"By a divine instinct men's minds mistrust
Erening dangers; as, by proof, we see
The waters swell before a boisterous storm."
—Shakespeare.

My sleep had been troubled. I knew very well that Dr. Klayme possessed some mysterious power by which he could cause me to sleep at his will, for I had previously had experience of this benign influence, but on this occasion I had not had opportunity to get his help. I had been called to the aid of some men who had run against Mosby in the night with the usual result.

When I rose about 1 o'clock, I found that the doctor had not slept well, he said. "You have not slept well," he said. "Lydia looked sympathetic; the dear girl had her own troubles and her own work, yet I knew that her heart was wishing to comfort me."

"And there is a new expression on your face," said the doctor. "Yes, doctor, I have had an experience," said I, smiling. "Tell us about it," said Lydia.

I gave them briefly an account of my night's work. "Not very wonderful," said the doctor. "No, doctor, you think men have the same powers, and in the same degree?" "Not at all, doctor."

"At how great a distance do you think you could tell a Confederate from a Northerner?" "By his speech, do you mean, doctor?" "His everything. Certainly, Jones, it is likely that no man could be more sensitive than you, to the presence of Confederate. Habit, called second nature, may develop beyond nature. You simply know a Confederate at a great distance and many Confederates at a greater distance."

The doctor went into a talk on habit, giving some wonderful illustrations, to which I listened attentively. His words brought comfort; I had felt great fear of the South-landers, and I was glad to find that my intercourse with them had given me some capacity for avoiding them.

Headquarters had moved to Warrenton. Doctor Klayme, according to his wont, still held his camp at Centerville; he would not move until the army was more settled. He had expressed a conviction that there would be no engagement north of the Rappahannock; he would, therefore, save himself and especially Lydia the worry of short marches; when Meade crossed the river would be enough. Lydia's skill was in great demand even at Centerville, for there were small cavalry skirmishes almost daily at this period, and she had her hands full at the hospital.

There seemed as yet no hope for Col. Paul. For some days I saw nothing of my dearest friends. Although the distance from Warrenton to Centerville was not great—but 22 miles—it was an attachment to Gen. Meade's secret corps did not allow me, in this interval, to visit the Sanitary Camp. Gen. Meade was delaying his advance until the Indian Summer, and I was glad to find that my intercourse with them had given me some capacity for avoiding them.

My chief acquaintance was Capt. Seranton. This man was a puzzle to me. He certainly had some strong qualities; I had found him brave, but careless; mentally quick; too quick-impulsive; of firm loyalty to his adopted country, so far as one could judge from words, yet I knew that he was not thoroughly honest. He frequently expressed admiration for Gen. Lee and above all for the great military genius left at Chancellorsville; his outspoken belief in the superiority of Southern generalship made me think at times that he was by no means devoid of the final success of the Union cause. He had been with Gen. Meade in the campaign at Gettysburg, and had been greatly distinguished for his reckless daring, having ridden straight through fire of shell and shot, on both the 21st and 22nd, carrying orders from Meade to Sheridan, and from Meade to Hancock, when other messengers sought circuitous and safe courses. He gave evidence that he belonged to the gentle class, yet there were times when, perhaps because of the mannerisms contracted through his training as an actor, I could have thought him a cheap imitation of the gentleman. As it was impossible for me to confide in him, it was likewise impossible to expect confidence from him.

One morning I was lying on the edge of the wood in the rear of headquarters, with nothing to do but enjoy the Indian Summer, and everything to think of drowsily. Time was heavy on my hands, and the weather was not conducive to voluntary enterprise. I wished that the army would go into Winter quarters, then my desires could come. That great work which I was to do, bore upon me, prolonging suspense; it was difficult to believe that I was to get it done soon, for now nobody was doing anything—except a few cavalry somewhere on the flanks.

A footfall sounded behind me, and Seranton approached. He said to me, "For my part I felt little like talking."

"What's the matter, Clarence? May I know?" "Atrocious. Thus far into the bowels of the land have we marched on without impediment—now we wait for impediments."

"Captain, where did you get that servant of yours?" He started; recovering at once, he laughed. "Curious rooster, isn't he? He is Alsatian, I think; 'hasty and tinderlike upon too trivial motion.'"

"This thinking Scherzer Alsatian was almost self-betrayal." "I judge that he has been better times," said I.

"Yes? Perhaps so; many people have been better times. Now in good time here comes the Duke himself. How he keeps going I don't know. He doesn't even stagger."

It was known that Scherzer drank some liquor, though not of the heavy sort. "I have never seen him drunk," said I, thinking it strange that the Captain should exaggerate the habit of his servant.

"No; there's many a cup 'twixt his lip and his ship." Scherzer came very slowly; I felt that his eyes were on me and not on the Captain—but when he was very near, the

matter was reversed; he refused to look at me.

"What is it, Scherzer?" asked Seranton.

"The men haf come."

"Let me see 'em."

"I did and that, and they did say no; not haf time to wait."

"Go back and say that I will come."

It was perversity, no doubt, which made me linger. So far as military duty was concerned, Seranton would not stand on ceremony with me; if the men spoken of by Scherzer had come in consequence of orders, the Captain would at once go to them; that he had shown no haste caused me to think some private affair was claiming his attention. I was a little curious; he was silent—wishing me to be the first to go, perhaps.

"You think we shall advance soon, Captain?"

"Borwick, Gen. Meade will advance when necessary. He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valor to act in safety."

"His caution is to his credit," said I; "what would you have him do?"

"I inferred that an advance was contemplated, and that the Second Corps was

then temporarily under Warren because of Gen. Hancock's slow recovery from wounds received at Gettysburg—I was told that the General was absent. He soon returned, however, and received me.

"Do you know the Rapidan?" he asked. "I have crossed it, General, several times."

"Above or below our front? At what ford?"

"I have crossed it at Liberty Mills, at Raccoon Ford, and at Germanna."

"Germanna?" he exclaimed. "Tell me about Germanna Ford. Is it deep?"

"When I crossed it the water was shallow enough, General, but the time was Midsummer."

"And you think it is not fordable now?"

"General, it was not fordable in fact almost any time, but it is a fact almost any time."

"Do you know the country beyond Germanna?"

"Not at all, General; I know the ground at and around Chancellorsville, and around Fredericksburg, but between Germanna and Chancellorsville I know nothing more than the road and objects easily seen from the road—and they are not greatly varied, sir. It is a wilderness down there."

"As had around Chancellorsville?"

"Yes, General; I judge that there is a wide scope of country, south of the Rapidan, that is little else than unbroken forest."

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